Dear Friends,

I am excited to be able to introduce myself and our 2019 Fall newsletter. My name is Bethany Moore, and I have been on the faculty at the University of Michigan since 1997, when I was hired into the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Division within the Department of Internal Medicine. My research largely focuses on how the immune response handles microbial infections in the lung. My laboratory has active projects looking at models of infection with herpesviruses, influenza and many bacterial pathogens. We are also keenly interested in how the immune system within the body changes following stem cell transplant and why individuals are so susceptible to complications from infections in the lung. Thus, my interests in immunology and microbiology led me to apply for a joint appointment in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in 2009. I have been an active member of this department for the past decade and I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to serve as the interim chair.

Some of the history that I have learned in this new role is that in 1994, our department decided to focus a major part of our research efforts on microbial pathogenesis, and we were highly successful in that arena over the next decade. However, starting in 2004, Dr. Mobley led this department through an incredible period of growth in the faculty and in our research portfolio and expertise. Our department boasts immunologists, virologists, parasitologists, mycologists, and computational biologists as well as bacteriologists! We currently enjoy the highest level of extramural funding in our history, and our faculty and trainees continue to make important discoveries and develop new innovations. One thing we are really passionate about is working to inspire, educate and support our next generation of scientists.

Our department is active in training undergraduate students, master’s students, Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows. We are also lucky to have incredible contributions not only from our instructional-track faculty, but also our research-track faculty. Finally, none of it would be possible without our committed research and administrative staff. This truly is a wonderful community in which to work, discover and educate!

Speaking of our great people, I am pleased to announce that this year Dr. Irina Grigorova was successfully promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, Dr. Siarhei Kharytonchyk was promoted to Assistant Research Scientist and Dr. Ola Kolawole was successfully promoted to Research Investigator. Their promotions are each well deserved, and we are excited to see where their science will go!

As we prepare for a national search for our next chair, the department has had the opportunity to spend time thinking not only about our many accomplishments, but also the things we hope to do in the future. We developed a mission statement that reads as follows: “We are an inclusive community whose passion for discovery, service, leadership and sharing of knowledge address global microbiology and immunology challenges.” I really like this statement and hope it serves to guide our actions in the coming years. One thing we are especially proud of is how many of our faculty hold important service roles...
both within the University of Michigan and nationally and internationally in various scientific organizations. Now more than ever it is critical for scientists to communicate about the importance of research with the public and to advocate for scientific research with our congressional leaders. We are exceptionally well poised to do that!

I hope you will enjoy reading about the department in this newsletter. I think you will be impressed with our many accomplishments in 2018-2019! I also hope you will follow us in the coming year on our new Twitter account. Just look for @UMMicroImmuno to stay connected. We also love to hear from you, so tweet us or feel free to contact me at bmoore@umich.edu

GO BLUE!
Sincerely,

Bethany Moore, Ph.D.
Faculty News

Faculty Promotions, Honors, and Awards

Kathleen Collins, 2019 Dean’s Basic Science Research Award; named Editor-in-Chief of JCI Insight, the American Society of Clinical Investigation Journal now housed at UM

Oveta Fuller was featured in a Medicine at Michigan story about the Trusted Messenger Intervention program in Zambia.

Irina Grigorova, promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure

Alfredo Guerra, promoted to Research Investigator

Steve Gureczynski, promoted to Research Investigator; Parker B. Francis Fellowship recipient

Gary Huffnagle, appointed Co-Director of the Immunology Graduate Program

Siarhei Kharytonchyk, promoted to Assistant Research Scientist

Michael Imperiale, 2019 Convocation Speaker, Van Andel Institute Graduate School

Denise Kirschner, President, Society of Mathematical Biology; appointed to Burroughs Wellcome Fund Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease Advisory Committee

Abimbola Ola Kolawole, promoted to Research Assistant Professor

Adam Lauring, named a Fellow of the Infectious Disease Society of America

Laura Mike, promoted to Research Investigator

Beth Moore, 2019 Rackham Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award; JCI Insight Associate Editor

Tomoyuki Murakami, promoted to Research Investigator

Malini Raghavan, appointed Co-Director of the Immunology Graduate Program

Maria Sandkvist, Endowment for the Basic Sciences 2018 Teaching Award

Patrick Schloss, 2019 American Society for Microbiology Award for Service

Michele Swanson, 2019 American Society for Microbiology President; National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine Committee on Management of Legionella in Water Systems

Andrew Tai, JCI Insight Associate Editor

Xiofeng Zhao, promoted to Research Assistant Professor; HHV-6 Foundation Junior Investigator Award recipient

Harry Mobley Completes 15 Years as Chair of M&I

After 15 years of effective leadership and service to our department, Harry L.T. Mobley, Ph.D. stepped down as Chair, effective July 1, 2019. Harry’s successes during his time as Chair include nearly doubling the primary faculty members and the increase in the department’s national ranking for NIH funding from 39th place in 2003 to 8th place in 2019! The entire department including faculty, staff, students, and postdocs have flourished under Harry’s leadership. His support, wisdom, and guidance have helped establish and encourage the collegial and collaborative environment that we all enjoy. We are exceptionally fortunate that Harry will be staying on as faculty in the department so we can continue to benefit from his example as a scholar, teacher and mentor. We expressed our appreciation for Harry’s leadership with a celebration of his career as Chair at the home of Mary O’Riordan, Ph.D. in August. Harry is excited about the transition and has expressed his enthusiasm for getting back to “professoring” full time.

-Nicole Koropatkin
William Henry Fitzbutler Collegiate Professorship in Internal Medicine

Vincent B. Young, M.D., Ph.D. was installed as the first William Henry Fitzbutler Collegiate Professor of Internal Medicine on August 13, 2019. The Professorship was established to support the research and clinical efforts of a faculty member in the Department of Internal Medicine. This professorship honors Dr. Fitzbutler, the first African-American student to graduate from Detroit Medical College in 1869 and the first African-American graduate of University of Michigan Medical School in 1872. Dr. Fitzbutler spent his life and career championing diversity, equality, and social justice. A ceremony and reception were held for the inauguration of this professorship. Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues, Dr. Young reflected on his journey as a physician-scientist in the field of translational microbiology, thanking his numerous mentors every step of the way. We congratulate Dr. Young on this prestigious accomplishment.

- Lisa Abernathy Close

Beth Moore Becomes Interim Chair of M&I

Following the retirement of Harry Mobley as M&I Chair, Bethany Moore, Ph.D., became the Interim Chair. Dr. Moore has been recognized for exemplary research, mentorship, and teaching. In March, she was recognized as a Rackham Distinguished Graduate Mentor and she has transitioned from her position as Director of the Doctoral Program in Immunology. As director of the Immunology Program, Dr. Moore recruited high caliber graduate students and built a supportive self-sustaining community. After beginning her career as research track faculty, she credits the mentorship and support from her colleagues in M&I and the interdisciplinary Immunology Program for her academic success. As Interim Chair, Dr. Moore seeks to build on the multidisciplinary expertise, inclusive community, and innovative and mechanistic science in the department. She is especially excited about the breadth of research, including bacterial pathogenesis, microbial communities, parasites, viruses, yeast and many aspects of immunity such as innate immunity and adaptive immunity. Her three main goals include fostering collaborative connections between faculty in M&I and other departments, generating new ideas and collaborations within the department, and advocating for productive mentorship at all levels: from students to postdocs to faculty on all tracks.

- Amanda Photenhauer

Kathy Collins becomes Editor-in-Chief of JCI Insight

This year Kathy Collins, M.D., Ph.D. was elected by the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) to become the second Editor-in-Chief of JCI Insight, an open access journal founded in 2016. JCI Insight publishes approximately 480 primary research articles and 8-12 reviews each year and offers authors two paths for manuscript submission: traditional manuscript submission or submission of externally reviewed articles. The journal’s broad scope encompasses a wide variety of disciplines that are published in three main categories: Research Articles, Clinical Medicine, and Technical Advances. This allows the journal to not only report ground-breaking basic science discoveries but also provide a platform to discuss novel therapeutics and techniques that have wide-ranging impacts on patient care. As the new Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Collins is excited to expand the editorial board’s expertise and continue JCI Insight’s publication of “original impactful discoveries that uphold the high standards expected by ASCI members, authors, and the readership.”

- Matt Schnizlein
Postdoctoral News

The mission of the Microbiology & Immunology Postdoctoral Association (MIPDA) is to provide M&I postdocs a platform to discuss career-related opportunities, network with each other, and exchange information. MIPDA also represents the interests and issues of postdocs within the department. All M&I postdocs are welcome to join our community and attend our monthly meetings. This year, the MIPDA was chaired by Lisa Abernathy Close, Ph.D. (Young lab), Allyson Shea, Ph.D. (Mobley lab), and Sarah Tomkovich, Ph.D. (Schloss lab).

M&I postdocs continue to perform high quality research and publish high-impact articles. This year, postdocs have published work as follows: Haley Brown, Ph.D. (Koropatkin lab), Trends in Microbiology; Dr. Abernathy Close, Cell Host Microbe; Ajay Kumar, Ph.D. (Chang lab), PNAS; Rebecca Pollet, Ph.D. (Koropatkin lab), Journal of Biological Chemistry and Trends in Microbiology; Dr. Tomkovich, Journal of Clinical Investigation.

Postdocs also gave both oral and poster presentations at national and international conferences. Dr. Pollet attended the Gordon Research Seminar on Carbohydrate-Active Enzymes for Glycan Conversions, where she gave a talk that was then selected for presentation at the associated Gordon Research Conference. Laura Mike, Ph.D. (Mobley lab) was selected for a talk at the Clinical and Scientific Advances in Urinary Tract Infections Conference. She also attended the Gordon Research Conference on Microbial Adhesion and Signal Transduction. Dr. Abernathy Close attended the American Association of Immunologists Annual Meeting, where she presented a poster on “Aging and the Cellular Immune Response to Acute C. difficile infection.” She was also selected as the University of Michigan Postdoc Spotlight for June 2019, where she gave a seminar titled “Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Perspectives from a Patient-Scientist”.

In addition to communicating our research at conferences, many M&I postdocs received prestigious grants, fellowships, and awards. Dr. Shea received a F32 grant from the NIAID (Characterization of pathogen nutrient acquisition and transport systems required during UTI) and the Richard and Mary Finkelstein Travel Award to the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Microbe 2019. Dr. Mike was awarded a K22 grant from the NIAID (Functional Genetic Analysis of Klebsiella pneumoniae Hypervirulence). Dr. Mike was also awarded a travel award to attend the Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis Conference. Dr. Pollet was a University of Michigan Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Awardee. Krista Armbruster, Ph.D. (Koropatkin lab) was selected to join the second cohort of Michigan Life Sciences Fellows, working to further develop the understanding of lipoproteins’ activities in Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron, an important member of the human gut microbiota, and their effects on human health.

-Lisa Abernathy Close
Graduate News

The graduate students had a fantastic year in 2018-2019. One of the main goals of this year was to foster inclusion in the department for all graduate students. First, the department was introduced to the interests of the students outside of the laboratory setting with “Grad Student BINGO” at department retreat as well as continued rotating biographies in the department break room. Matt Schnizlein represented our department in the Biomedical Graduate Student Government. Madeline Barron, Amanda Photenhauer, Stephanie Thiede, and Helen Warheit-Niemi organized a Microbiology & Immunology first year peer-to-peer mentorship program where new Ph.D. students were paired with current student mentors as part of the Rackham Faculty Ally for Diversity for M&I grant. Edmond Atindaana, Filipe Cerqueira, Zachary Mendel, and Amanda Photenhauer invited speakers from diverse backgrounds and career paths to give seminars as part of that same grant. This was in addition to the multitude of students who helped host department speakers, represented our program at national and international conferences, and were awarded fellowships and grants of their own.

Several students this year received positions on NIH T32 training programs at UM. The Molecular Mechanisms of Microbial Pathogenesis (MMMP) training program awarded fellowships to Maddie Barron (Young lab) and Helen Warheit-Niemi (Moore lab). Madison Fitzgerald (Mobley lab) and Jaime Fuentes (Martens lab) obtained funding from the Genetics Training Program, Sadie Gugel (Martens lab) from the Cellular Biotechniology Training Program, and Matt Schnizlein (Young lab) from the Training in Basic and Translational Digestive Sciences Program.

A number of other students received awards both inside and outside of UM. Amanda Photenhauer (Koropatkin lab) received Honorable Mention in the 2019 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) competition as well as a Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (pre-candidate). Zack Mendel (J. Swanson lab) received an Endowment for the Development of Graduate Education award. Katie Saund (Snitkin lab) received a Rackham Professional Development Grant and Lisa Tran (Vecchiarelli lab) was awarded a NSF GRFP. John Charpentier (Immunology) (King lab) received the Herman and Dorothy Miller Fund Award for Innovative Immunology Research. Both Matt Schnizlein and Katie Saund received Rackham Conference Travel Grants. Rob Glowacki (Martens lab) received the Program in Biomedical Sciences 20th Anniversary Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Research and Teaching. Yolanda Rivera-Cuevas (Carruthers lab) had the honor of serving as a research facilitator (teaching assistant) for the research intensive Biology of Parasitism (BoP) course at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, MA.

In addition to research funding and grants, many students presented their research at conferences, including the following:
• John Charpentier, AAAS Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering Workshop in Washington, DC; invited talk at the American Association of Immunologists national meeting, Immunology 2019, in San Diego, CA
• Matt Schnizlein, oral and poster presentations at Clostpath 11 in Leiden, Netherlands
• Amanda Photenhauer, poster presentation at the 2019 Gordon Research Conference on Carbohydrate Active Enzymes for Glycan Conversion in Andover, NH
• Stephanie Thiede (Snitkin lab), poster presentation and lightning talk at the Applied Bioinformatics and Public Health Microbiology conference in Hinxton, United Kingdom and received a Wellcome Genome Campus Scientific Conference Bursary to attend
• Katie Saund, oral and poster presentations at the Microbe 2019 conference in San Francisco, CA. She received the Richard and Mary Finkelstein Travel Award to attend.
• Helen Warheit-Niemi, poster presentation at the 2019 American Thoracic Society International Conference.

-Amanda Photenhauer and Matt Schnizlein

M&I Holiday Party 2018
Ph.D. Defenses – November 2018 through October 2019

**Sukhmani Bedi**  Mentor: Akira Ono  March 7, 2019
“The Roles of Viral and Host Proteins in Regulating Influenza A Virus Assembly and Budding in Infected Cells”

**Allison Jade Dupzyk**  Mentor: Billy Tsai  March 11, 2019
“Mechanism of Membrane Penetration by Nonenveloped Polyomavirus and Papillomavirus”

**Evelyn M. Covés-Datson**  Mentor: David Markovitz  April 30, 2019
“Molecularly Engineered Lectins as Anti-Influenza Agents”

**Elisa D. Hughes**  Mentor: Michele Swanson  July 25, 2019
“A Cyclic di-GMP Two-Component System Contributes to *Legionella pneumophila* Differentiation and Resilience”

**Charles Wang**  Mentor: Suzanne Dawid  August 15, 2019
“Regulation and Substrate Selectivity of Peptide Exporters and Their Functional Significance in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*”

Welcome Doctoral Student Class of 2018!

**Jennifer Baker**, B.S. in Secondary Level Teaching Fields, Indiana Wesleyan University (Dickson lab)

**Madison Fitzgerald**, B.S. in Molecular Biology, Vanderbilt University (Mobley lab)

**Jaime Fuentes**, B.S. in Biological Sciences, California State University, Sacramento (Martens lab)

**Sadie Gugel**, B.S. in Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison (Martens lab)

**Yuan Li**, Bachelor of Engineering in Bioengineering, Zhejiang University; Masters of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Lauring lab)

**Patrick Rimple**, B.S. in Microbiology, University of Pittsburgh (Carruthers lab)

**Austin Shannon**, B.S. in Biological Sciences, Northern Arizona University (Sandkvist lab)

Welcome Master’s Student Class of 2019!

**Jiaxin Chen**, B.S. in Animal Science, University of California, Davis

**Qinyue Jing**, B.S. in Microbiology, University of Wisconsin, Madison

**Ling Qui**, B.M.D. in Medical Sciences, Sichuan University, China
Undergraduate News

Jacob Arche (B.S. Microbiology, music minor 2018, Wobus) is working as a technician in the Dlugosz lab, UM Dermatology on Merkel cell carcinoma.

Michael Breed (B.S. Microbiology 2019, Pearson/Mobley) presented a poster at ASM Microbe 2019 and is beginning his doctoral studies at Arizona State University.

Angela Danielski (B.S. Neuroscience 2016, Raghavan) is currently attending medical school at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Rochester, MI.

Anna DeVeaux (Senior, Microbiology, Koropatkin) and Adeline Morris (Junior, Public Health Sciences, Koropatkin) presented their work on bacterial amylase inhibition by the diabetic medication acarbose at the 2019 Midwest Microbial Pathogenesis meeting in Toronto.

Adam Dingens (B.S. Microbiology 2014, Fuller/Sherman) is a research scientist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. He is a Weintraub research awardee for his Ph.D. work in the Fred Hutch/University of Washington Molecular and Cellular Biology program, co-mentored by Drs. Julie Overbaugh and Jessie Bloom. Dr. Dingens was in the second cohort of UM MICRBIOL 450 that traveled to Zambia with Dr. Oveta Fuller, in 2012.

Taylor Mitchell (Junior, Biology, Health, and Society, Mobley) is working with Dr. Allyson Shea studying the role of transporters in uropathogenic E. coli during urinary tract infection. Taylor is a Pre-Physicians Assistant student.


Stephanie Mrowczynski (B.S. Neuroscience 2016), is a Research Associate at Cepheid in Sunnyvale, CA.

Bryan Ranger (B.S.E. Biomedical Engineering 2011, Fuller) is working in the Global Health Division of the Gates Foundation with a research program based in the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. Dr. Ranger earned a Ph.D. in 2018 in Medical Engineering and Medical Physics at MIT, where he held an NSF graduate fellowship and interned at the WHO (Geneva) and USAID (Washington, DC). Bryan was in the first cohort of UM MICRBIOL 450 students who went to Zambia with Dr. Fuller, in 2010.

Katherine Rice (Senior, MCDB and Archaeology, Anderson/Mobley) has had a variety of research projects. Katherine’s research on sulfur assimilation in Serratia marcescens has led to co-authorship on a 2019 mSystems paper. Katherine plans to attend medical school after graduation.

Drew Stark (Sophomore, Microbiology, Mobley) has been working with Dr. Laura Mike on a project exploring virulence phenotypes of Klebsiella pneumoniae. Drew presented at the M&I Undergraduate Research Symposium in August 2019.

Jolie Stocki (Senior, Biology, Health, and Society, Mobley) has been working with Dr. Allyson Shea. She will complete her honors thesis this fall semester on intimin-like adhesins in uropathogenic E. coli and plans to attend medical school after graduation.

Quincy Taylor (B.S. Microbiology 2018, Moore) is now a medical student at Boston University.

Caleb Weissman (Senior, Microbiology, Kirschner) was a DEI Inclusivity Fellow for 2 years and a DEI peer mentor. He is a co-author on a manuscript in preparation entitled, “Distinguishing outcomes of individual tuberculosis granulomas in long-term infection.”

Undergraduate Research Symposium

This summer Rebecca Pollet, Ph.D and Haley Brown, PhD., postdocs in the Koropatkin lab, organized the annual M&I Undergraduate Research Symposium. This symposium showcases the hard work of students pursuing independent research projects in labs of M&I department faculty. This year eight undergraduates presented ten-minute talks about the goals and major findings of their work. The presenters received feedback from the postdoc judges, Allyson Shea, Ph.D. (Mobley lab), Jay Vornhagen, Ph.D. (Bachman lab) and Krista Armbruster, Ph.D. (Koropatkin lab). The Department of M&I Research Alternatives and Opportunities fund sponsored the Undergraduate Research Award, which was presented to Lea Cattaneo. Lea is majoring in microbiology at UM and presented work on Legionella pneumophila completed in Michele Swanson's lab. Lea is currently conducting research in Thomas Schmidt's lab and is looking forward to beginning doctoral studies in the future.

- Rebecca Pollet
Alumni News

Zachary D. Abbott (Ph.D. 2015, M. Swanson) is the Founder and CEO of ZBiotics, a biotechnology company engineering probiotics in Berkeley, CA.

Joanna Abend (Ph.D. 2008, Imperiale) is a Senior Scientist at BioMarin, San Rafael, CA.

Swati Agrawal (Postdoc 2013, Carruthers) is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Washington College in Chestertown, MD.

Dionysios Antonopoulos (Postdoc 2008, Young) is Interim Director of the Biosciences Division at Argonne National Laboratory and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago.

Michael A. Bachman (M.D., Ph.D. 2002, M. Swanson) is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Associate Director of Clinical Microbiology at Michigan Medicine.

Sukhmani Bedi (M.S. 2013, Raghavan; Ph.D. 2019, Ono) is an Investigator at Sequirus, Boston, MA.

Andrew Bryan (M.D., Ph.D. 2011, M. Swanson) is Medical Director of Clinical Laboratories at Northwest Hospital & Medical Center and Assistant Director of Clinical Laboratories at University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle.

Elizabeth Cameron (Ph.D. 2014, Martens/Koropatkin) is a postdoc at the University of Minnesota.

Darrell Cockburn (Postdoc 2017, Koropatkin) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science at Pennsylvania State University.

Zach Dalebroux (Ph.D. 2010, M. Swanson) is an Assistant Professor of Microbiology & Immunology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Natasha Del Cid (Ph.D. 2012 [IMM], Raghavan) is a Scientist I at AnaptysBio, San Diego, CA.

Mahesh Desai (Postdoc 2017, Martens) is a tenure track faculty member at the Luxembourg Institute of Health in Belval, Luxembourg.

Zhicheng (Bigbean) Dou (Postdoc 2015, Carruthers) is an NIH-funded Assistant Professor at Clemson University.

Rachel L. Edwards (Ph.D. 2008, M. Swanson) is a Staff Scientist at Washington University in St. Louis.

Michael Elftman (Postdoc 2012, Wobus) is an Assistant Professor of Immunology, Central Michigan University College of Medicine.


Kaitlin Flynn (Ph.D. 2015, M. Swanson) is a Bioinformatician at Benaroya Research Institute in Seattle.

Matthew Foley (Ph.D. 2018, Koropatkin) is sponsored by a Center for Gastrointestinal Biology and Disease T32 training grant for his postdoctoral work in Dr. Casey Theriot’s lab at North Carolina State University.

Rajshekar Gaji (Postdoc 2012, Carruthers) is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan.

Brian K. Hammer (Ph.D. 2001, M. Swanson) is an Associate Professor of Biology, Georgia Institute of Technology and currently serving as an American Society for Microbiology Distinguished Lecturer (2018-2020).

Beth Hayes (Postdoc 2015, Carruthers) is Senior Research Fellow at UC San Francisco.

David Hill (Postdoc 2018, Young) is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.
Amrita Joshi (Ph.D. 2000, M. Swanson) is a Research Investigator at Michigan Medicine.

Bjorn Kafsack (Ph.D. 2008 [JHU], Carruthers) is an NIH-funded Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York City, NY.

Julie Laliberte (Postdoc 2010, Carruthers) is a Group Leader at Takara Biosciences in Ann Arbor, MI.

Jhansie Leslie (Ph.D. 2017, Young) is a postdoc with William Petri at the University of Virginia.

Josie Libertucci (Postdoc 2019, Young) is a postdoc with Elena Verdu at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

David Lin (Ph.D. 2018, Tai) is a Genentech Research and Early Development (gRED) postdoc in South San Francisco, CA.

Ana Luis (Postdoc 2019, Martens) is completing her final year as a Marie Curie Fellow at Gothenburg University in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Tiantai Ma (M.S. 2019, Koropatkin) is beginning his Ph.D. training at University of California, San Diego.

Olivia McGovern (Ph.D. 2018, Carruthers) is a Lieutenant and Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hari Mohan (M.S. 2019, Raghavan) is a doctoral student in UM PIBS.

Ari Molofsky (M.D., Ph.D. 2005, M. Swanson) is an Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Assistant Director of Clinical Labs Immunology Section at University of California, San Francisco.

Rob Peters (Ph.D. 2011 [IMM], Raghavan) has been promoted to Associate Professor of Biology, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI.

Elsje Pienaar (Postdoc 2017, Kirschner) is now an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Purdue University.

Nathan Porter (Ph.D. 2017, Martens) is a postdoc at Chalmers Technical University in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Gayathri Raghuraman (Postdoc 2005, Raghavan) is a Clinical Research Scientist, Machaon Diagnostics, Fremont, CA.

Angela Reeves (Ph.D. 2012, Young) is an R&D Team Leader in Assay Development at Abbott Diagnostics, Abbott Park, IL.

Courtney Robinson (Postdoc 2011, Young) is an Associate Professor at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Theresa Rogers (Postdoc 2014, Martens) is an Associate Professor of Biology at California Lutheran University.

Marijo Roiko (Ph.D. 2013, Carruthers) is the Microbiology Program Director for Altru Health System in Grand Forks, ND.

Chelsea Rule (Ph.D. 2016, Sandkvist) was recently appointed as the Assistant Director and Manager for the Health Careers Advising Program at Cornell University.

John-Demian Sauer (Ph.D. 2006, M. Swanson) is an Associate Professor of Medical Microbiology & Immunology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Burroughs Wellcome Fellow Investigator in Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease.

Aric Schultz (Ph.D. 2018, Carruthers) is a postdoctoral scholar at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Denver, CO.

Anna Seekatz (Postdoc 2016, Young) is an Assistant Professor at Clemson University, Clemson, SC.

Aleksandra Sikora (Postdoc 2011, Sandkvist) received an award from the Oregon State University Faculty Senate as an outstanding faculty member excelling in teaching, research, and leadership.

Stephanie Spohn (Postdoc 2018, Young) is a Scientist at Celsee, Inc. in Ann Arbor, MI.

Clarise Rivera Starr (Ph.D. 2005, Engleberg) is Deputy Division Chief of the Applied Technology and Genomics Division, Lead Scientist, Pathogen Detection Therapeutics, at the US Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine in Dayton, OH. She works on pathogen detection and therapeutics, personalized medicine, and operational biochemistry. She was in Ann Arbor in September 2019 for the PIBS 20th Reunion.

Katie Mason Summers (Ph.D. 2010, Huffnagle) is a Research Microbiologist at the USDA in Washington DC. She is working on the swine microbiome, with a goal of promoting growth without antibiotics. She was in Ann Arbor in September 2019 for the PIBS 20th Reunion.

Nadezhda Svezhova (Postdoc 2014, Carruthers) is a Senior Staff Scientist at the University of Michigan.

Casey Theriot (Postdoc 2015, Young), is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Population Health and Pathobiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, NC State University, Raleigh, NC.

Holly Turula (Ph.D. 2018 [IMM], Wobus) is an IRACDA fellow and postdoc in the lab of Joel Swanson.

Seth Walk (Postdoc 2012, Young) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at Montana State University.

Natalie Whitfield (Ph.D. 2009, M. Swanson) is Director of Scientific and Medical Affairs at GenMark Diagnostics in Carlsbad, CA and a 2019 guest panelist in the series “From Ph.D. to Professional” at Michigan Medicine’s Office of Graduate and Postgraduate Studies.

Ou (Ozzie) Zhang (Postdoc 2015, Carruthers) is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Bastyr University in San Diego, CA.
Alumni Feature

While celebrating the accomplishments of our graduate students, we want to look back at those who have come before. Melody Neely, Ph.D. was a doctoral student in M&I in the lab of Dr. David Friedman. In 1998, Dr. Neely was the inaugural recipient of the Ward J. MacNeal Distinguished Dissertation Award for her thesis entitled “Functional and genetic analysis of the lambdoid bacteriophage H19-B, a natural vector for the Shiga-like toxin genes.” Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Washington University, she spent 14 years at Wayne State University School of Medicine and a year at Texas Woman’s University. She is now an Associate Professor in the Molecular and Biomedical Sciences Department at the University of Maine. I caught up with her to learn about her time here.

How did your educational journey lead you to M&I?

Going back to school as an EMU [Eastern Michigan University] undergrad after a 15-year hiatus, thinking I would major in Art, is an unlikely beginning for ending up in the M&I graduate program. However, being required to take a laboratory science course that first semester at EMU opened my eyes to a whole new fascinating world. After classes in Genetics and Microbiology, I was truly hooked but maintained a double major in Art and Biology. As an undergrad at EMU, I first became familiar with the Department when Dr. Oveta Fuller hired me to maintain her cell lines and virus stocks. I credit Dr. Fuller with stimulating my appetite for research. I was then hired as an undergraduate researcher at Parke-Davis (now Warner-Lambert) and worked with Dr. Eric Olson, who was an alumnus of M&I and eventually became co-mentor for my doctoral thesis. Therefore, I was somewhat familiar with the department before I joined for my graduate degree.

What is the most valuable lesson you learned from your time in this department?

My research mentor was Dr. David Friedman, and I learned so much from him on how to be both a scientist and a scholar of the world. His infectious enthusiasm for the research and boundless curiosity about the scientific world is an example I still try to follow. I learned that being a good scientist did not mean being one-dimensional. To be a well-rounded scientist requires not only caring only about science but also harboring passions for music, literature, philosophy, the world around you including, of course, in David’s case, the political arena. A conversation with David is never boring, always educational, and often entertaining.

Do you have any funny memories you wish to share?

I have the memory of hearing loud, confrontational voices coming from David’s office that just meant he and Vic (Dr. DiRita) were discussing politics. This was usually followed by a friendly game of tennis! The comical adventures of “Puppy” were often recounted to the members of the Friedman lab. Puppy was the family dog that grew up with David’s sons and lived on through the stories that David told us. As a dog lover (currently 5 in the Neely household), I loved the multitude of “Puppy” stories that only got better with repetition.

What is your favorite microorganism?

Such a hard question - there are so many choices. My favorite would probably have to be Streptococcus pyogenes, with S. agalactiae being a close second. However, because a branch of my research currently includes the study of bacteriophages from S. agalactiae, I team-teach a course on Phage Genomics here at UMaine, and because my graduate research was on Lambda, bacteriophages will always be close to my heart.

Dr. Neely can be reached by email at melody.neely@maine.edu. Feel free to introduce yourself if you see her at a conference or are at the University of Maine.

-Amanda Photenhauer
Lucy McNamara Awarded Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers

Lucy McNamara, M.S., Ph.D. (2012, Kathy Collins’ lab), received the 2019 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The PECASE is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning their independent research careers and who show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology. Dr. McNamara’s present position is Epidemiologist in the Meningitis and Vaccine Preventable Diseases Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. McNamara works on a number of different projects, including data analyses of domestic surveillance data, an evaluation of the new meningitis serogroup B vaccines that were recently licensed in the US, a study to better understand diagnostic tests for whooping cough, and work to support meningitis surveillance in the meningitis belt in Africa. See http://phdovereasy.com/lucy-mcnamara-epidemiologist-at-the-us-centers-for-disease-control-and-prevention/ for more on her career.

MacNeal Dissertation Award - Hayley Warsinske

The MacNeal Dissertation award honors Ward J. MacNeal (A.B. 1901, Ph.D. 1904, M.D. 1905, Honorary Sc.D. 1939), a pathologist who specialized in cancer research and was a noted authority on bacteria and phage. The award is given each academic year to a Ph.D graduate from a pool of nominees in recognition of their scholarly credentials, significant contribution to the field, and effective dissertation writing. The 2018 MacNeal Scholar was Hayley Warsinske (Ph.D. 2016, with Denise Kirschner and Beth Moore). After completing her dissertation, Dr. Warsinske became a postdoctoral scholar in the lab of Dr. Purvesh Khatri, Stanford Center for Biomedical Informatics Research, Division of Immunology. During her November 16, 2018 MacNeal seminar, she discussed her work identifying host-response-based gene signatures for tuberculosis diagnosis.

-Ada Hagan
Departmental News

EBS Staff Award Goes to Stephanie Himpsl

Stephanie Himpsl is a Research Lab Specialist Intermediate working in the lab of Dr. Harry Mobley. She received the inaugural Endowment for the Basic Sciences Research Staff Award in May 2019. The award is given to recognize outstanding research productivity and innovation over the past year, and includes a monetary salary supplement. Ms. Himpsl organized the move of the Mobley Lab from the University of Maryland School of Medicine to Ann Arbor 15 years ago. In addition to her lab manager duties, Stephanie is an outstanding scientist. She has contributed to the scientific literature as co-author on 16 papers, including two as first author and three as co-first author. She has also been a contributing or presenting author on 22 national meeting abstracts.

Neidhardt-Freter Symposium

The annual Neidhardt-Freter symposium honors Rolf Freter, Ph.D. and Fred Neidhardt, Ph.D. As a member of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Rolf Freter set the stage for understanding the effects of antibiotics on the "gut flora." Fred Neidhardt, in addition to his prolific career in bacterial physiology, served as chair of M&I from 1970-1983. During that time, he supported the recruitment and mentorship of women and underrepresented minorities as faculty members. The October 2018 symposium in honor of Freter and Neidhardt featured talks by Richard Lenski, Ph.D. and Laurie Comstock, Ph.D. Dr. Lenski is an evolutionary biologist at Michigan State University. He maintains a long-term E. coli evolutionary experiment in which each bacterial passage is tracked for newly evolved capabilities such as growth on citrate as a sole carbon source. Dr. Comstock, Professor at Harvard Medical School, gave an exciting talk on antibacterial compounds produced by Bacteroidetes and their facilitation of niche competition.

- Amanda Photenhauer

Student-Invited Speaker – Steven Finkel

This year, the Organization of Microbiology and Immunology Students invited Steven Finkel, Ph.D. for the annual student-invited seminar. He is a Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Southern California and a proponent of undergraduate research programs to increase the diversity of the academy. As a bacterial physiologist, Dr. Finkel studies how bacteria adapt to survive in nutrient limiting conditions. He presented research on the GASP (growth advantage in stationary phase) phenotype in E. coli, describing how bacterial subpopulations grow depending on their genetic diversity and metabolic needs. During his visit at UM on March 7, 2019, Dr. Finkel also met with students to discuss their research projects and offer career advice.

-Matt Schnizlein

Willison Lecture - Yasmine Belkaid

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology hosted Yasmine Belkaid, Ph.D., as the 2019 Willison Lecturer on March 14, 2019. Dr. Belkaid is currently the Director of the NIAID Microbiome program and the NIH Center for Human Immunology. Dr. Belkaid is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences and has published over 200 peer-reviewed papers. Her laboratory has defined fundamental mechanisms of host-microbe interactions in the skin and in the gut. Dr. Belkaid’s lecture, “Microbial and nutritional control of tissue immunity” highlighted the roles of microbiota and dietary factors in the regulation of tissue immunity and protection from pathogens.

-Lisa Abernathy Close
MMMP Invited Lecture – Tami Lieberman

The Molecular Mechanisms of Microbial Pathogenesis training program hosted Tami Lieberman, Ph.D. on October 25, 2018. Dr. Lieberman is an Assistant Professor at MIT in both the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Institute for Medical Engineering and Science. Her research focuses on determining what bacteria populate the human body and how they travel between different body sites. Dr. Lieberman’s goal is to predict how therapeutic strains will colonize and impact host functions and the functions of other microbes. During her seminar entitled “Bacterial adaptation and diversification within individual human microbiomes,” she shared data from her investigation of the microbiota of pores on the human face. Her talk detailed how microbial populations vary across the face and theorized how the bacteria travel from pore to pore, resulting in multiple unique ecosystems under the skin’s surface.

-Matt Schnizlein

Emerging Concepts and Technologies in Virology Symposium

On September 12, 2019, M&I hosted a Symposium on Emerging Concepts and Technologies in Virology, bringing researchers from across the country to speak about new approaches to studying viruses. Jesse Bloom, Ph.D., from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, opened the proceedings with a talk entitled “Single-cell virus sequencing of influenza infections,” in which he discussed how point mutations in the influenza genome can influence replication in individual cells. Dr. Bloom was followed by Fei Wen, Ph.D. from UM Department of Chemical Engineering, who presented several applications of CyTOF technology (cytometry time-of-flight) in the study of immune responses to viral infection. Kristin Parent, Ph.D., visiting from Michigan State University, discussed research on the protein mechanisms that allow bacteriophages and giant viruses to infect their hosts, and Melanie Ohi, Ph.D., from UM Life Sciences Institute, shared microscopy resources and potential applications available from their Microscopy Center. After a brief lunch break, Nihal Altan-Bonnet, Ph.D., from the National Institutes of Health, spoke about her research into how cellular vesicles deliver clusters of non-enveloped RNA viruses to host cells. Daniel DiMaio, M.D., Ph.D., from Yale University, then presented his work entitled, “The ins and outs of papillomavirus entry” describing how human papillomavirus reaches the nucleus of its host, and Ashok Kumar, Ph.D., from Wayne State University, spoke on metabolic pathways involved in ocular Zika virus infection. Former UM M&I doctoral student Julie Pfeiffer (Ph.D. 2001, Telebinsky) from the University of Texas Southwestern closed the symposium with her talk about how non-enveloped RNA viruses latch onto enteric bacteria to enhance infection and how eukaryotic cellular defense from viral infection has evolved in choanoflagellates. The symposium was organized by Christiane Wobus, Ph.D., who reported that about 20% of the registrants were from outside UM. The symposium was suggested and supported by former department chair Harry Mobley, Ph.D. His vision was that it would strengthen connections among virologists in the region, and in that spirit, Dr. Wobus encouraged everyone to network during the day. There were ample opportunities for that at the breaks, lunch, and evening dinner open to all.

-Joshua MA Stough
Heritage Lecture

Our 2018 Heritage Lecturer was Robert Blumenthal (Ph.D. 1977), currently Distinguished University Professor of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Toledo. Bob did his dissertation research in the laboratory of our former Chair, Fred Neidhardt, where he studied prokaryotic transcription termination. Though he works in Toledo, Dr. Blumenthal still lives in Ann Arbor. He shortened his commute (!) during two sabbaticals at UM, where he is also an Adjunct Research Scientist at the UM Life Sciences Institute. Dr. Blumenthal has continued studying gene regulation in bacteria, and he presented some of his ongoing work on global transcription regulators, proteins that govern expression of very large sets of genes. He started his Heritage Lecture on November 15, 2018 with a number of photos and anecdotes about his time as a student in the department, which were fun to see and hear.

-Mike Imperiale

Recollections of a Department Gone Past

My association with UM’s Department of Microbiology & Immunology began in 1956, when my father (Hal Blumenthal, 1926-2003) joined its faculty. I was just five, but OSHA regulations being looser than they are now, I happily played in the lab and even visited the animal facility. Our first house was where Palmer Commons now stands. In 1965, we moved to Chicago when Dad became chair of the microbiology department at Loyola (Elliot Juni was hired as his replacement).

After earning a degree in microbiology at Indiana, I was elated to be accepted by UM M&I’s Ph.D. program in 1977. My first rotation was in Rolf Freter’s lab. Let’s just say you might expect a piano player to have better finger coordination than I demonstrated in attempting to assemble and seal anaerobic chambers.
The courses we took were taught mostly by relatively new faculty, and most were not team taught. These included a course on the molecular biology and genetics of bacteriophage lambda (yes, an entire course on one phage; and no, we didn't run out of useful things to discuss) taught, of course, by the irrepresible David Friedman.

There was also a course on mathematical modeling of regulatory systems, taught by Mike Savageau. This was all differential equations, I’d had limited experience with matrix math, and it became the only C+ I ever celebrated! Three decades later, my lab collaborated with Mike, to model the regulation of a restriction-modification system we were studying. (Our first phone call included the following dialogue. Mike: “Huh, I guess you learned more from that course than some of the A students.” Me: “Yeah, I learned not to do it myself…”).

I joined Fred Neidhardt’s lab for my doctoral research, thus being added to an older and wiser crew Fred had brought with him from Purdue a couple of years earlier. The other non-Purdue UM grad students in Fred’s lab included Peggy Lemaux (now at UC Berkeley), Barry Wanner (Purdue, Harvard), and Fred Young. Fred’s lab adopted the then-new 2D gel technology with enthusiasm, transforming our focus almost overnight, as he quickly saw the power of proteomics and systems biology (terms that had not yet even been coined). Fred was a wonderful advisor, if somewhat distracted by the cares of running the department. In fact, his whole family (dog and cats included) adopted me, which gave me valued grounding during my graduate studies.

Fred ran the department very democratically, at least from a student perspective, involving doctoral students in all committees – yes, even promotion and tenure. I was in fact the grad student representative on the department’s P&T committee for a year. I still haven’t decided whether or not that was a good idea, but for the student reps themselves, it was an incredible learning experience about what it means to be a faculty member and the pressures they face.

One thing I still deeply respect about Fred is that, when appropriate, he could demolish a visiting speaker’s presentation, but do so in a way that left the speaker thanking Fred. (i.e., one can be rigorous and have high scientific standards without being a jerk.) In today’s world, that is an admirable and badly-needed skill.

Despite the statute of limitations having expired, there are certain stories I will neither confirm nor deny. These include possible laundry cart races in the halls of Med Sci II (at one point sacrilegiously knocking over a bust of F.G. Novy); and a fellow student tiring of two of us startling him in his lab in the evening and rigging a bucket of ice water above the door, only for us to actually spend the evening working and for his advisor to make a rare nighttime appearance (he had a new advisor the next day). Maybe it happened, maybe it didn’t…

After completing my degree in 1977, I did postdocs on the two coasts – in Vancouver (University of British Columbia) and Cold Spring Harbor – before joining the faculty at the medical school at the University of Toledo in 1981, in part because it was close to Ann Arbor. While Fred’s lab was still active, I was an adjunct member of the Department and had fun watching him put newer generations of grad students through their paces. While my paying gig is still in Toledo, I live in Ann Arbor and am an adjunct at the Life Sciences Institute, occasionally showing up in Med Sci II for Bacterial Pathogenesis Journal Club, thus continuing my six-decades-and-counting interaction with the M&I Department. It was an honor to have been selected as the 2018 Heritage Lecturer.

- Bob Blumenthal
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in M&I

The Department continues to promote the University's DEI mission and M&I's own DEI initiatives. The departmental DEI committee, established in 2016 with representatives from students, postdocs, research and administrative staff, and faculty, implemented a wide variety of activities to promote DEI at all levels. Newly initiated or expanded activities include:

- Peer-to-peer mentoring program for incoming Ph.D. students
- Student-run Career and Diversity Seminar series: the student committee invited and hosted two successful academic PIs in the Microbiology or Immunology field who have diverse backgrounds and two Ph.D. professionals who trained in Microbiology or Immunology and have been successful in diverse career paths (see story below).
- DiversifyMicrobiology and DiversifyImmunology websites (see story below)
- Biweekly Summer Story Time (see story below)

Please also see our departmental DEI webpage for more details (https://medicine.umich.edu/dept/microbiology-immunology/about-us/diversity-equity-inclusion). We welcome broad and continued participation from all members of the department.

-Akira Ono

Diversify Microbiology and Diversify Immunology Resources

In July, the M&I Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee launched two new resources, DiversifyMicrobiology and DiversifyImmunology. These online lists aim to identify Ph.D.s in Microbiology and Immunology who are women and/or from a group traditionally underrepresented or under-served in the sciences. The goal is to help symposium organizers, award committees, search committees, and all scientists in our fields identify microbiologists and immunologists who might diversify their candidate pool.

This effort began when Ada Hagan, Ph.D. (Schlosslab) reviewed the demographics of the M&I department speakers, and the DEI committee set a goal to increase the diversity of people invited to give our departmental seminars. Toward this goal, the committee began compiling resources to assist in identifying potential speakers and realized no resources captured the diversity of identity and thought they were looking for. Inspired by other resources developed at UM, DiversityChemistry and DiversifyEEB, Rebecca Pollet, Ph.D. (Koropatkin lab) began compiling a questionnaire that can now be used by academic scientists to nominate themselves for the lists. The DEI committee gave helpful feedback on the questionnaire, and Dr. Hagan designed websites to host the questionnaire and the compiled lists.

You can find more information and add your name to these lists by visiting these websites at diversifymicrobiology.github.io and diversifyimmunology.github.io. You can also follow and promote these resources on Twitter (@DiversifyMicro and @DiversifyImmuno). Since launching in July, these lists have jointly identified more than 120 scientists from diverse backgrounds and are being used as our department and others plan their seminar series for the coming year.

-Rebecca Pollet
Student-Selected Speaker Series

This year the department was awarded a Rackham Faculty Allies for Diversity Grant mechanism to invite four speakers of diverse backgrounds and careers to give seminars. Akira Ono, Ph.D. created a selection panel of four graduate students: Edmond Atindaana, Filipe Cerquiera, Zachary Mendel, and Amanda Photenhauer. The panel solicited suggestions and then selected, invited, and hosted speakers from two categories: 1) underrepresented minority (URM) academic PIs whose interests are in microbes and/or host response, or 2) scientists who obtained Ph.D.s in Microbiology and/or Immunology and pursued non-academic career paths. Paul Turner, Ph.D. (Yale University) talked about using viruses to select for less virulent bacterial pathogens in human patients.

Kat Milligan-Myhre, Ph.D. (University of Alaska, Anchorage) presented on the use of the gnotobiotic stickleback fish model, on which she pioneered the study of the intersection of the immune system and the microbiota. Aimee Garlit, Ph.D. (Ph.D. 2012, DiRita) gave a talk entitled “Putting that degree to use: Transitioning from academia to the beverage industry and lessons learned along the way” describing her position as a microbiologist at Dogfish Head Craft Brewery in Milton, Delaware. Cmdr. Maya Williams, Ph.D. (Ph.D. 2004 [CMB], Collins) is at the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, MD. She spoke about her work as a Microbiologist in the U.S. Navy and the locations around the world where she has been stationed.

Members of next year’s panel are Yolanda Rivera-Cuevas, Jaime Fuentes, Madison Fitzgerald, Edmond Atindaana, Zachary Mendel, and Amanda Photenhauer.

-Amanda Photenhauer

Story Time in M&I

For the second summer, the M&I Department has had students, postdocs, staff, and faculty present stories twice a month at lunch time. The stories are funny, poignant, enlightening, and well attended. This Story Time program has been spearheaded by Tracey Schultz, a research technician in the laboratories of Drs. Vern Carruthers (M&I) and Jonny Sexton (Internal Medicine). She writes:

“As a hobbyist storyteller, I found myself in love with The Moth Radio Hour. I listened on WDET 101.9 or Michigan Radio 91.7. These stories always evoked an emotion or thoughts that lingered. Then I heard that The Moth was interviewing cities to set up shop. Detroit was chosen and I was going! The theme was “Dangerous.” At The Moth you have five minutes to tell a true story (without notes!) in a way to make it engaging for the audience. Stories are judged by three random patrons on a 1-10 scale. I took second place on two occasions, missing first by just 0.3 pts each time.

“We’re all storytellers because we’re alive – not all can tell a story, and that’s great because we need listeners; it’s a symbiotic relationship. I enjoy listening to others share things that matter to them. Through storytelling, you can learn a lot about another person.

At UM M&I we’ve had faculty, staff, postdocs, and students share their life experiences. This is where we discover more about each other and how connected we truly are not only in our professional scientific careers, but also in our vulnerability, interests and basic wants as humans.”

Tracey Schultz and Kathy Spindler
Donations and Gifts

The Department of Microbiology & Immunology gratefully acknowledges the generosity of donors to the Department in 2018-2019. The Department manages several endowments that provide support for student stipends, tuition expenses, and other scholarly activities in the Department. In addition to our existing funds, a new fund has been started, the Harry L. T. Mobley Lectureship Fund. These funds are essential to further our mission of academic excellence. Details can be found at our website:

https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#!/mimed/mimed/microbio

We especially encourage you to consider making a donation on GIVING BLUEDAY, Tuesday, December 3, 2019. It's your day to be a Victor for Microbiology & Immunology!

http://givingblueday.org/

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